

From the Director of Victim Services



Daily the Victim Services' Division receives numerous telephone calls from crime victims to inquire about a myriad of matters i.e. notifications, releases, restitution, parole hearings, decisions, community supervision, social media concerns, threats, unwanted contact etc. Since May 2015, we have been keeping a log of all victim calls received and returned.

To date, we have logged approximately 9,000 entries, averaging about 130 per month. Our fiscal year ended June 30th and within the year, we logged 1,539 calls averaging about 128 calls per month. We have seen an influx in call volume with the implementation of the new electronic notification system, VINE. Answering calls and navigating victims through the corrections process is a high priority for TDOC Victim Services' Division. The first goal for our staff when a call is received is to listen attentively with compassion. Every call is answered and/or returned within 24 hours; each caller is treated with sensitivity, respect and dignity with confidentiality being key. #VictimCentered

Tamika Dobbins

September 2021

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

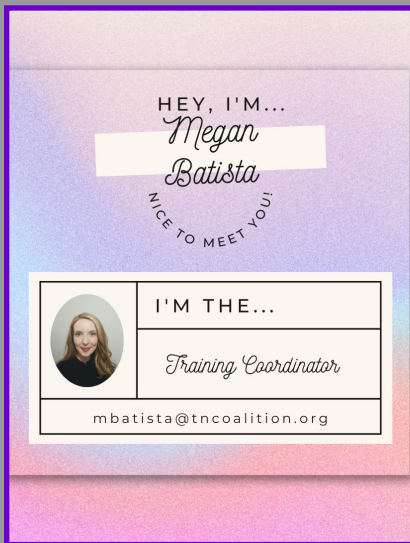
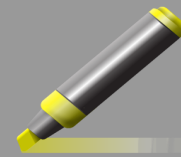
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

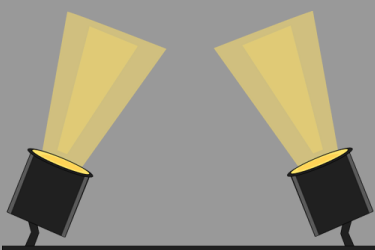
Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



Megan Batista is the new training coordinator with the Tennessee Coalition. After 4.5 years of providing training and support to member programs and survivors across the state, Megan is excited to begin her new role. A Nashville native, Megan graduated with a bachelor's degree in Law, Justice, and Society from Lipscomb University where she received two awards for outstanding service-oriented academic achievements. Her passion lies in spreading education that will challenge oppressive systems and lift up those most vulnerable. She looks forward to continuing alongside her Tennessee Coalition colleagues in their mission to end domestic and sexual violence in the lives of Tennesseans.



September: Suicide Prevention Month

There is no “typical” demographic of person who is at risk for suicide. No age group, ethnicity, or background is immune. Fortunately, many troubled individuals display behaviors deliberately or inadvertently signal their suicidal intent. Recognizing the warning signs and learning what to do next may help save a life.

THE WARNING SIGNS

The following behavioral patterns may indicate possible risk for suicide and should be watched closely. If they appear numerous or severe, seek professional help at once. **The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) provides access to trained telephone counselors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

- Talking about suicide, death, and/or no reason to live
- Preoccupation with death and dying
- Withdrawal from friends and/or social activities
- Experience of a recent severe loss (especially a relationship) or the threat of a significant loss
- Experience or fear of a situation of humiliation or failure
- Drastic changes in behavior
- Loss of interest in hobbies, work, school, etc.

FEELINGS, THOUGHTS, AND BEHAVIORS

Nearly everyone at some time in his or her life thinks about suicide. Most everyone decides to live because they come to realize that the crisis is temporary, but death is not. On the other hand, people in the midst of a crisis often perceive their dilemma as inescapable and feel an utter loss of control. Frequently, they:

- Can't stop the pain
- Can't think clearly
- Can't make decisions
- Can't see any way out
- Can't sleep eat or work

WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?

- A community mental health agency
- A private therapist
- A school counselor or psychologist
- A family physician
- A suicide prevention/crisis intervention center
- A religious/spiritual leader

WHAT DO YOU DO?

- Be aware. Learn the warning signs.
- Get involved. Become available. Show interest and support.
- Be direct. Talk openly and freely about suicide.
- Be willing to listen. Allow for expressions of feelings and accept those feelings.

Victim Services Monthly Statistics

Central Office Phone Calls

Telephone Calls	August
Phone calls Received/Returned	168
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	147
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	3
Referrals	34
Release/Parole Inquiry	73
Other	53

Central Office Mailed Notifications

Notifications Mailed	August
Registrations/Voice	162
Movement	88
Advance Release	703
Final Release *	78
Death	13
Other	3



Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 08-01-2021 to 08-31-2021

Agency	Month	Email	TTY	SMS	Phone	InApp	Letter	Total
TN Department of Correction	August 2021	3,898	3	8,500	2,376	171	3	14,951
	AGENCY TOTALS	3,898	3	8,500	2,376	171	3	14,951
	OVERALL TOTALS	3,898	3	8,500	2,376	171	3	14,951

New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification 08-01-2021 to 08-31-2021

			Anonymous	Concerned citizen	Family member of offender	Family member of victim	Law enforcement	Not Reported	Other	Victim	Victim coordinator/advocate	Total
TN Department of Correction	August	2021	130	137	459	4,291	207	9,472	198	24	1	14,919
	AGENCY TOTALS		130	137	459	4,291	207	9,472	198	24	1	14,919
	OVERALL TOTALS		130	137	459	4,291	207	9,472	198	24	1	14,919

Announcements



The Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center (CVRCC) stands ready to support the victims and witnesses of the Collierville mass shooting.

CVRCC victim advocates and trauma counselors can provide the following services, in both English and Spanish languages:

- **Crisis intervention & support**
Often times, victims and witnesses need information and guidance to help them understand their feelings and reactions to a horrific event. Sometimes, victims and survivors of other crimes are also triggered by these events. It may be helpful to talk through those immediate reactions and start to learn some basic coping skills as well as the next steps in processing the trauma you have experienced.
- **Law enforcement and personal advocacy**
Information is occasionally necessarily scarce immediately following a mass violence event. Victims and survivors might need help with everything from locating personal items left at the scene to understanding what options are available for them and their families. Our advocates and counselors help serve as a liaison between law enforcement and other entities to help facilitate responses for each victim's unique needs.
- **Assistance in applying for victims' compensation or other financial assistance**
The [TN Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund](#) is designed to reimburse victims of crime for any expenses related to the crime, including medical and mental health expenses. CVRCC is working closely with the state Fund and the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office to help streamline those applications for the Collierville victims. In addition, we are exploring other opportunities to connect victims and witnesses with other resource options to help with everything from out-of-town travel to other immediate or long-term needs.

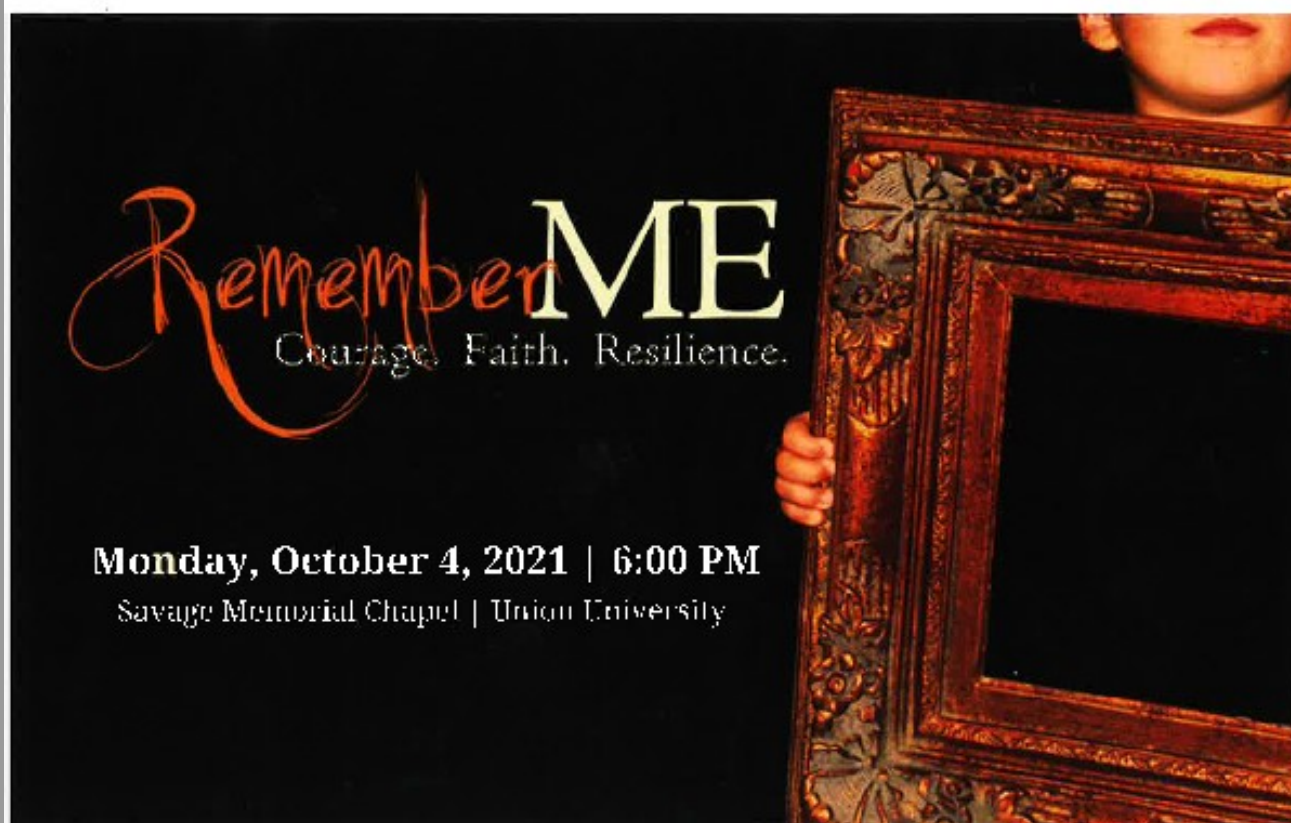
As people are ready, CVRCC can also provide the following:

- **Individual or group counseling**
CVRCC's counseling team supports victims of crime through a variety of professional counseling modalities (types). Counselors will work with each victim to determine their own best course of action to start on their journey towards resiliency and hope after crime.
- **Community Crisis Debriefing Sessions**
CVRCC's Community Crisis Debriefing Team is comprised of 4-5 advocates and counselors who conduct 60 – 90 minute sessions for people impacted by crime, including those not directly impacted, such as co-workers, friends, neighbors, and family members. The team will provide information about typical grief and trauma reactions, help participants learn to manage emotional responses to trauma, discuss resources in the community, and validate concerns while offering support. An added bonus to these sessions is that participants can meet other people who were also affected in order to build informal supports and connections with one another.

All Services Are Free and Confidential.

Call 901-222-3950 or visit www.shelbycountyttn.gov/victim.

Announcements



Remember ME

Courage. Faith. Resilience.

Monday, October 4, 2021 | 6:00 PM

Savage Memorial Chapel | Union University

please be our guest

13th Annual Remember Me Commemorative Walk
Monday, October 4, 2021 | 6:00 PM

Savage Memorial Chapel | Union University
1050 Union University Drive | Jackson, TN 38305

The *Remember Me Commemorative Walk* is a free community event for survivors of violent loss in honor of their loved ones.

The special evening will include the following:

Special Guest Speaker: Marianne Dunnivant
Commemorative Walk by Candlelight
Presentation of Special Gifts to all Survivors.

Join us rain or shine. Please RSVP to attend by calling Nita Mehr at 731-661-5552 or nimehr@uu.edu

The Trauma, Faith & Resilience Initiative of the
Center for Just & Caring Communities
The School of Social Work, Union University, Jackson, TN

School of Social Work

Union University
1350 Union University Dr.
Jackson, TN 38305

Announcements



SAVE THE DATE

"Purple with a Purpose Day" Wednesday, October 6th

In honor of domestic violence victims, please wear the color purple and take a picture and send to Tamika.Dobbins@tn.gov to be featured in our October Newsletter and our social media pages.

**Stay Connected
With #TeamTDOC!**

Follow Us:



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/TNTDOC1



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/TNDepartmentofCorrection





YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE NINTH ANNUAL
Pearls & Pinstripes Gala
MASQUERADE PARTY
Benefiting
THE TENNESSEE COALITION TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021 at 6:00 PM
MUSIC CITY CENTER
NASHVILLE, TN
Dinner, Drinks, Entertainment, Auction
Music by Burning Las Vegas
Sponsored by: **SOLAREN**


Pearls & Pinstripes Gala
JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENING
PEARLS & PINSTRIPES 2021 LEADERSHIP
Rebecca Wells Demaree, Event Co-Chair
Micki Yearwood, Event Co-Chair
Kelly Holmes, Wine Grab Chair
Nancy Britt, Auction Chair
Kalen Leonard, Sponsorship Chair
Anna-Vija McClain, Marketing Chair
Patricia Malone, Volunteer Chair
Tickets and information at tncoalition.org/pearls-pinstripes
Individual Tickets \$150
  
#PearlsandPinstripes
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS
AJAX TURNER **amazon**
QUALITY BEER | FINE WINE | CRAFT SPIRITS
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FINANCIAL PARTNERS
COVID-19 Event Protocol
To ensure the health and wellness of attendees, masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative rapid test will be required. Free rapid tests will be provided on-site by our presenting sponsor, Solaren Risk Management. We ask for your patience and understanding as we return to an in-person celebration.

Tennessee Department of Correction

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Fax: 615-741-1055
Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

Tamika Dobbins

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Betsy Fletcher

Executive Secretary
Betsy.Fletcher@tn.gov

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU ARE A
VICTIM OF CRIME



WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)